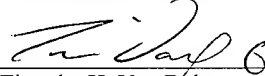


respectfully requested. Applicants assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this Preliminary Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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